

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the subject application.

Claim Listing:

Claims 1 through 25 (cancelled)

Claim 26 (new) A method for running a tufting machine having at least one needlebar, loopers and/or hooks to pick up yarn delivered through the needles of the needlebar, knives to cut the yarn loops, and driving means, wherein, according to the method, the needle action and/or the hook and/or looper action and/or the knife action is/are non-simple harmonic motion(s), and wherein the needlebar(s) is/are slowed or halted when the needles are at the yarn pick-up point to assist the looper and/or the hooks to pick up yarn from the needles.

Claim 27 (new) The method for running a tufting machine claimed in claim 26 wherein the needlebar(s) is/are slowed or halted when the needles are above the backing material to extend the time available for advancing the primary backing material.

Claim 28 (new) The method for running a tufting machine claimed in claim 26 or 27 wherein the needlebar(s) is/are slowed or halted when the needles are at top dead center to avoid the needles tagging the back-stitches.

Claim 29 (new) The method for running a tufting machine claimed in claim 26 or 27 wherein the loopers and/or the hooks are held in an extended position to hold the loops until later in the tufting cycle.

Claim 30 (new) The method for running a tufting machine claimed in claim 28 wherein the loopers and/or the hooks are held in an extended position to hold the loops until later in the tufting cycle.

Claim 31 (new) The method for running a tufting machine claimed in claim 26 or 27 wherein the knives are moved forward to cut the loops at a point where the loops have the same length.

Claim 32 (new) The method for running a tufting machine claimed in claim 28 wherein the knives are moved forward to cut the loops at a point where the loops have the same length.

Claim 33 (new) The method for running a tufting machine claimed in claim 29 wherein the knives are moved forward to cut the loops at a point where the loops have the same length.

Claim 34 (new) The method for running a tufting machine claimed in claim 30 wherein the knives are moved forward to cut the loops at a point where the loops have the same length.